

## Shapers of Post-Cold War US Foreign Policy

To no one's great surprise, dozens of Walter LaFeber's students pursued careers in foreign policy and international affairs. Some joined the US Foreign Service and rose through the ranks to become ambassadors and high-ranking State Department officials. Others served at the Pentagon, in Congress, or on the White House staff. Two of them—Stephen Hadley and the late Sandy Berger—actually became National Security Advisors. All of the contributors to this roundtable confirm the powerful impact of Walt's teaching and mentorship.

### Moderator

**Thomas Pepinsky** is the Walter F. LaFeber Professor of Government and the Director of the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University. His books include *Economic Crises and the Breakdown of Authoritarian Regimes: Indonesia and Malaysia in Comparative Perspective* (Cambridge University Press 2009) and *Pandemic Politics: The Deadly Toll of Partisanship in the Age of COVID* (Princeton University Press, 2022). Mr. Pepinsky holds a BA from Brown University and completed his PhD at Yale in 2007.

### Participants

**Jeffrey Bialos (Cornell BA, Class of 1978)** heads the Aerospace, Defense, and Security Practice at Eversheds Sutherland LLP, a global law firm based in Washington DC. He held senior positions in the State and Commerce Departments during the Clinton administration and served as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Industrial Affairs from 1999 to 2000. More recently, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies from 2002 to 2018. Mr. Bialos holds a JD degree from the University of Chicago and an MA in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Derek Chollet (Cornell BA, Class of 1993)** is the Counselor of the US Department of State, where he serves as chief policy advisor to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. He held several senior positions during the Obama administration, including Principal Deputy Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Strategic Planning on the National Security Council staff, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. Mr. Chollet is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of eight books on US foreign policy and has been a fellow at the Center for a New American Security, the Brookings Institution, and several other think tanks.

**Eric Edelman (Cornell BA, Class of 1972)** has been Counselor at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments since 2009, when he retired from the US Foreign Service. He was special assistant to Secretary of State George Shultz in the late 1980s and was appointed US ambassador to Finland during the Clinton administration and to Turkey during the George W. Bush administration. Mr. Edelman was also Vice President Dick Cheney's principal deputy assistant for national security affairs, and from 2005 to 2009 served as Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. He holds a PhD in diplomatic history from Yale University and was a member of the board of directors of the United States Institute of Peace from 2011 to 2022.

**Robert Einhorn (Cornell BA, Class of 1969)** is a senior fellow in the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative at the Strobe Talbott Center at the Brookings Institution. During the Obama administration, Mr. Einhorn served as a special advisor to the Secretary of State for nonproliferation and arms control, where he helped shape U.S. policy toward Iran's nuclear program; supported nonproliferation goals through diplomatic contacts with China and Russia; and addressed nuclear security challenges in South Asia. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military affairs from 1992 to 1999, and Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation from 1999 to 2001. He also held various positions at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Widely published, Mr. Einhorn earned an MPA in International Relations from what was formerly named Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.

**Stephen Hadley (Cornell BA, Class of 1969)** is a Principal at Rice, Hadley, Gates & Manuel LLC, an international consulting firm in Washington DC. He began his government service in 1987 as counsel to the Tower Commission investigating the Iran-contra scandal and became Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs during the George H. W. Bush administration. In 2001, Mr. Hadley was appointed as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor, serving under National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. In 2005, he succeeded Ms. Rice as National Security Advisor and served as the principal White House foreign policy strategist during George W. Bush's second term. Mr. Hadley holds a JD from Yale University and was an officer in the US Navy from 1972 to 1975.

**Paul Jones (Cornell BA, Class of 1982)** retired from the US Department of State in 2020. During his distinguished 33-year career, he served as Ambassador to Poland, Ambassador to Malaysia, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan (under Richard Holbrooke), and Deputy Chief of Mission in the Philippines and North Macedonia. His final assignment was as Chargé d'Affaires in Islamabad, Pakistan during the waning days of the Trump administration. Mr. Jones holds MA degrees from the University of Virginia and the US Naval War College.

**Shannon Smith (Cornell PhD, Class of 1998)** is Middle East and Africa Section Manager for the Congressional Research Service. She served on the staff of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 2007 to 2013 before becoming Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs during Barack Obama's second term. Her portfolio included HIV/AIDS policy, climate change, and the civil war in Sudan. In 2017, Ms. Smith joined the Africa Center for Strategic Studies as a professor of practice and director of alumni engagement. She holds a BA from Texas A & M University.